Barnett on Songwriting

John Barnett

in conversation with

Andy Park

Sessions 1 – 3

Session 1 Inspiration comes differently for each of us.

- For, some the daily discipline of writing or some other kind of regular schedule of writing really works. For others, like John, it doesn't.

Why We Write

- For many of us, including John, writing isn't about "monetizing" your work. A very good reason to write songs is simply to express to God, and sometimes to others, what you're feeling and experiencing in your life journey with God. It's like a musical "diary." It's a way of processing or "journalizing" your pursuit of God in the struggle of life.

Session 2 Finding Your Voice as a Songwriter

- There are a lot of worship songs that come out every month that fit the "cookie cutter" formula of the modern day contemporary worship song. Do you want to fit into that mold, or find your unique style and voice as a writer?

- In your lyric writing, find a way to give **language to emotions.** The Biblical Psalms are FULL of emotion (*way more* emotion is expressed in the Psalms than in the majority of our local churches).

Session 3 We are Made to Create

- Each one of us is made in the image of God, who is the *great Creator.* We have his spiritual DNA, which makes us *creative.* Use your creative gifts, whether it's writing songs or doing any other kind of art.

- Be free from the traditional definitions of "success" in your creativity. Don't cave in to copying someone else's style so you can find success. The church needs a multiplicity of voices and styles all echoing the ancient truths of God in our music.